

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE FABRICATION, ASSEMBLY AND
MANUFACTURING OF WEAPON SYSTEMS
PLATFORMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AT JOINT SYSTEMS MANUFACTURING CENTER- LIMA

1.0 TITLE OF ACTION

Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Fabrication, Assembly and Manufacturing of Weapon Systems Platforms for the Department Of Defense (DoD) at Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC) – Lima.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

JSMC-Lima is a state-of-the-art center for fabrication, assembly, manufacturing and testing of weapon systems platforms for the DoD. This 369-acre government-owned, contractor-operated facility is located in Lima, Ohio. The facility was built during World War II, and until the 1970's served as a manufacturing or warehousing resource for DoD. The facility began manufacturing the M1 Abrams main battle tank in 1979. Since the termination of producing new M1 tanks in 2001, the facility has had the mission of rebuilding older versions of the vehicle. This is a two-phase operation where the vehicle is stripped of all equipment, down to the bare turret and hull, at Anniston Army Depot (Alabama). The turret and hull are shipped by rail to JSMC-Lima where they are sand-blasted down to bare metal, and re-built to a finished product. The JSMC-Lima facility also manufactures major components of other military vehicles or weapons platforms that undergo final assembly at other facilities. Examples include manufacturing the upper hull of the Stryker combat vehicle and the hull of the Cougar armored wheeled vehicle, and other prototypes. JSMC-Lima is ideally suited to fabricate, assemble and manufacture weapon systems to meet short-term war-time mission requirements. Additional manufacturing operations of weapons systems and armored vehicles will likely be required to meet war-fighter requirements.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

3.1 The Proposed Action

The proposed action is for JSMC-Lima, in support of the Department of Defense, to modify existing processes and/or facilities to support new and/or additional fabrication and manufacturing activities. These processes and facilities are used for manufacturing operations of weapon systems, or fabricate and assemble major components for weapons systems or vehicles for assembly at other locations. JSMC-Lima will perform a risk assessment on the fabrication, assembly and testing requirements for proposed programs and identify required mitigation measures.

3.1.1 The No Action Alternative.

The no action alternative provides an environmental baseline against which to compare the potential effects of the proposed action. Under the no action alternative JSMC-Lima will maintain the status quo for manufacturing operations for existing weapon system platforms, and maintain the current level of manufacturing operations.

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3.1.2 The Preferred Alternative

JSMC-Lima, in support of the DoD, would modify existing processes and/or facilities to support manufacturing operations, or fabricate and assemble major components for weapons systems or vehicles for assembly at other locations. JSMC-Lima would perform a risk assessment on the fabrication, assembly and testing requirements for proposed programs and identify required mitigation measures. This is the preferred alternative.

4.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Increased manufacturing operations could increase employment, and thus traffic volume on roads near, and leading to, JSMC-Lima. Increased manufacturing operations would also cause an increase in truck traffic. The total increase in traffic volume could affect level of service (LOS), though only two roads near JSMC-Lima have LOS below "C." Increased manufacturing operations would likely cause the generation of increased solid and hazardous waste. The JSMC-Lima is licensed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) as a large-quantity generator of hazardous waste. JSMC-Lima has sound, well-established policies and procedures to effectively manage its solid and hazardous waste. Increased manufacturing operations at JSMC-Lima could involve fabricating a major component to be assembled elsewhere, or final production which may require use of the JSMC-Lima test track. This condition may require a noise level analysis of vehicle(s) operated on the test track, as well as an analysis of the capability of the test track to conduct needed operational tests. If noise levels from vehicle testing exceeds those from the M1 Abrams tank, which is currently operated on the test track, JSMC-Lima may need to identify and implement mitigation measures to avoid objectionable levels of noise reaching local residents. The addition manufacturing operations at JSMC-Lima would have a positive effect on the local economy.

JSMC-Lima is considered a major source of air pollutants and is required to operate under the provisions of a Title V Permit issued by the Ohio Department of Environmental Protection (Ohio EPA) under the auspices of the Clean Air Act. As such, any new sources of air emissions or extensive modification of JSMC-Lima's existing processes would require an analysis of the effects such changes would have on the county's air quality. The level of detail and associated costs would be proportional to the proposed changes but the installation must be able to demonstrate to local, state, or federal regulators that the proposed process change would have no significant impact on air quality. When dealing with the Clean Air Act successful implementation of a proposed action will require careful preparation of all required documentation.

Cumulative impacts arising from increased manufacturing operations at JSMC-Lima, coupled with increased operations on industrially-zoned properties near JSMC-Lima could contribute to increased traffic and a reduced LOS on roads near JSMC-Lima. The Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission has identified two projects to improve roadways in the area which may mitigate some of the potential effects associated with the increased traffic volume at JSMC-Lima. Increased industrial operations in the area could, along with JSMC-Lima affect the air quality of the region. Increased traffic volume, and potential emissions could affect air quality compliance in the Lima-Allen County area. Additional industry located near JSMC-Lima would further contribute to and enhance the area's economy.

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5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A legal notice was placed in the Lima News on July 16, 2008, notifying the residents of Lima and Allen County, Ohio about the Programmatic EA. The notice identified the 30-day period during which people could review and provide comments about the PEA. The legal notice included information on how people could obtain a copy of the document at public libraries in Lima or on-line from the Army Environmental Command's website (<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/nepa/topics00.html>). The legal notice also provided information on how to provide comments and provided the mailing address, fax and e-mail address for the Public Affairs Officer at JSMC-Lima.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Increasing the manufacturing operations of weapons systems at JSMC-Lima within the confines of existing facilities would have minimal direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the environment and/or human health.

I concur with the findings and analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment and recommend approval of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Reviewed by:

Jeffrey Hatch,
Office of Counsel
US Army Environmental Command

date

Approved by:

Wade L. McVey
Deputy Commander-DCMA GDLS
Executive Agent for TACOM

date